to enforce the statutory provisions and take appropriate action as provided in the Mines Act, 1952, against the persons held responsible for accidents and for violating the provisions of the Act. The Director General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management of the mines from time to time for improving safety measures.

Problems of tribals of Orissa

1249. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bonda Tribes of Orissa have been suffering from water borne diseases;

(b) whether Government have decided not to dig tube-wells for the benefit oi these tribesmen because of cost escalation; and

(c) whether Government would look into the problems which are threatening the very existence of this tribe, if so, what positive steps are proposed to be taken immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) No. such report has been received.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Out of 32 villages in Bonda tribal area in Koraput district, safe drinking water supply has already been made available to 9 problem villages. 18 sanitary wells have been dug in 16 Bonda villages since 1980 for drinking water purposes. Two Calix rigs are already under operation and one –All Terrain Rig has also been shifted to this area to tackle the problem of drinking water in some of the villages. All the residual problem villages are likely to be provided potable drinking water in 1989-90.

Establishment of tree germ plasm bank

1250. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a tree germ plasm bank has been established in the Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar and if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to establish such banks in other agricultural Universities all over the country; and

(c) whether these banks will help afforestation programme which are undertaken by both Government and non-Government Organisations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. A tree germplasm bank has been established at Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar with the financial support from the Department of Non-conventional Energy Sources (D. N. E. S.) Govt. of India with the object to collect, and evaluate indigenous and exotic tree species that would be useful to the farmers particularly for arid regions. The Species being evaluated and conserved in the germplasm bank are: *Popular, Morus Gliricidia, Casuarina, Luca lyputus* and *Acacia.*

(b) The Forest Research Institute Dehradun under the Department of Environments and Forests, Govt. of India , is having the mandate to have the National Tree Germplasm Bank and efforts are being made to strengthen this work in the country,

(c) The purpose of these gene banks is to preserve existing variability of different species under different agro-climatic conditions and the elite stocks are identified for micro-propagation as well as distribution for afforestation programme in area of their adaptation.